

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/034,453	ISHII ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Eric Hug	1731	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on July 14, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,2,5-7,9-12,15 and 16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 27 December 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
  - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.            |
| 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.              | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                             |
| 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|  | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

***Response to Amendment***

The following is in response to the amendment filed on July 14, 2003.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9-12, 15, and 16 are allowed.

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 2, 7, 11, and 12 are allowed primarily because the shoe press belt of the present invention has a web side layer composed of a single hydrophobic high molecular weight elastic material and a water holding section formed in the web facing surface. With respect to Applicant's arguments, there is no teaching of making a shoe press belt with a web facing side and a water holding section formed therein rendered hydrophobic by means of a single elastic material.

Claims 5, 6, 9, 10, 15, and 16 are allowed primarily because the shoe press belt has a hydrophilic web facing surface and has a water holding section formed in the web side layer with at least some of the interior surfaces of the water holding section being hydrophobic.

Prior art grooved shoe press belts arranged to receive water from a press felt do not have hydrophobic water holding sections formed within a web side resin layer.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


Kiuchi (US 4,559,258) discloses a shoe press belt having a shoe-side inner resin layer comprising polytetrafluoroethylene for reduced friction against the shoe.

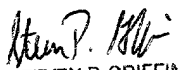
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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Hug whose telephone number is 703 308-1980. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven Griffin can be reached on 703 308-1164. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0651.

  
jeh

  
STEVEN P. GRIFFIN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700